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Agenda item 78

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos D. **Sorreta** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

"(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

"(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

"(c) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

"(d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research"

was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 53/79 A and B of 4 December 1998, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983 and 39/148 of 17 December 1984.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 1999, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64, 65 and 67 to 85, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 11 to 15 and from 18 to 20 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.3-12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered at the 13th to 19th meetings, on 21

99-34601 (E) 181199

and 22 and from 25 to 29 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.13-19). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 20th to 27th meetings, on 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/54/PV.20-27).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;[1]

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/54/218);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/54/201);

(e) Letter dated 5 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (A/54/205-S/1999/853);

(f) Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Finland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro and the priorities for action adopted during the first summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999 (A/54/448);

(g) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063);

(h) Letter dated 27 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held at Vienna from 6 to 8 October 1999 (A/54/514-S/1999/1102);

(i) Letter dated 19 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/54/8).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.3

5. At the 13th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, the Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia and Trinidad and Tobago introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/54/L.3).

6. At its 21st meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.3 without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution A).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/54/27).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.16

7. At the 17th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Australia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/54/L.16).

8. At its 21st meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.16 without a vote (see para. 11, draft resolution B).

C. Draft decision A/C.1/54/L.28

9. At the 21st meeting, on 1 November, the representative of France submitted a draft decision entitled "Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters" (A/C.1/54/L.28).

10. At its 24th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.1/54/L.28 without a vote (see para. 12).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution A
Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[3]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1992, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997 and 53/79 A of 4 December 1998,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Bearing in mind its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[3]

2. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of its consideration of the items entitled "The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned" and "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N of 10 December 1996", and endorses the consensus texts adopted thereon;

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

3. *Notes with regret* that the Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the item entitled "The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament";

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

5. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[4] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[5]

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1999 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 2000 substantive session:

(a) [To be considered][6]

(b) [To be considered][6]

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2000 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[7] together with all the official records of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

Draft resolution B
Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[8]

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[4] Resolution S-10/2.

[5] A/CN.10/137.

[6] The substantive items will be decided at the organizational session of the Disarmament Commission.

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/54/27).

[8] *Ibid.*

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing, in this respect, the need for additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

Noting that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues to negotiate,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament on 5 August 1999 to admit five new members,[9] and notes that the Conference recognizes the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of its membership;

4. *Also welcomes* the strong collective interest of the Conference on Disarmament in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2000 session;

5. *Further welcomes* the undertaking by the current President of the Conference on Disarmament to conduct consultations jointly with the incoming President during the inter-sessional period to try to achieve this goal, as expressed in his statement contained in paragraph 38 of the report of the Conference;[7]

6. *Encourages* the Conference on Disarmament to continue the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

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12. The First Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 124 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, by which it requested the Secretary-General to set up an advisory board of eminent persons to advise him on various aspects of studies to be made under the auspices

[9] Ibid., para. 16.

of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and arms limitation, including a programme of such studies,[10]

Recalling also section III of its resolution 37/99 K of 13 December 1982, by which it requested the Secretary-General to revive the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies in line with his note of 26 October 1982[11] and to entrust it with the functions listed therein,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Advisory Board and its suggestions on ways to improve its functioning and its mandate, as set out in paragraphs 44 and 45 of the report of the Secretary-General,[12]

Noting the endorsement by the Secretary-General in his report[13] of the Advisory Board's recommendation to change the language in the mandate of the Board so as to reflect its actual functions as they have been performed for more than a decade,

Decides to request the Secretary-General to adjust the language in the mandate of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters as set out in paragraph 45 of the report of the Secretary-General.[13]

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[10] Resolution S-10/2.

[11] A/37/550. In his note, the Secretary-General described the situation of the Board in 1982 and recommended appropriate language for the mandate, which has been used since then.

[12] A/54/218.

[13] Ibid., para. 46.